

House Resolution 1986

By: Representatives Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>, Borders of the 175<sup>th</sup>, and Black of the 174<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating Valdosta State University on its 100th anniversary and recognizing Valdosta  
2 State University Day in Georgia and the Valdosta State University Centennial Years  
3 Celebration; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in 1906, the General Assembly of Georgia approved legislation establishing what  
5 is today known as Valdosta State University; and

6 WHEREAS, first opening its doors for classes in 1913, the school was originally named South  
7 Georgia State Normal College and was for women only; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1922, a legislative act changed the name to Georgia State Women's College and  
9 authorized a four-year program leading to a bachelor's degree; and

10 WHEREAS, the Georgia Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia made the  
11 college coeducational in 1950 and changed the school's name to Valdosta State College; and

12 WHEREAS, Valdosta State College became Valdosta State University on July 1, 1993, making  
13 it one of the University System of Georgia's two regional universities; and

14 WHEREAS, today, Valdosta State University offers a total of 129 degree programs through  
15 its five colleges, divisions, and schools, including the College of the Arts, the College of Arts  
16 and Sciences, the Harley Langdale, Jr., College of Business Administration, the James L. and  
17 Dorothy H. Dewar College of Education, the College of Nursing, the Division of Social Work,  
18 the Division of Aerospace Studies (AFROTC), and the Graduate School; and

19 WHEREAS, the university is home to 10,500 students coming from 152 of Georgia's 159  
20 counties, 44 states, and 68 countries, along with a faculty and staff of 1,400; and

1 WHEREAS, Valdosta State University has 46,000 living alumni, including three Honorary  
2 Co-Chairs of the VSU Centennial Steering Committee, Alfred W. (Bill) Jones III, chairman  
3 of the Sea Island Company; Martha Barrs (Jones) Robertson, retired, the first female vice  
4 president at Coca Cola USA; and David Ratcliffe, president, chairman, and CEO of the  
5 Southern Company; and

6 WHEREAS, the university's economic impact on Valdosta's four-county metropolitan  
7 statistical area annually produces more than \$304 million and 4,900 jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, Valdosta State University has a mission to serve 41 counties from the Atlantic  
9 Ocean to the Alabama state line; and

10 WHEREAS, Valdosta State University is the home of the Governor's Honors Program, the  
11 Peach State Summer Theatre, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, and Blazer Athletics, which  
12 includes the 2004 NCAA Division II National Championship Football Team; and

13 WHEREAS, this venerable institution of higher learning will officially celebrate its 100th  
14 birthday on August 18, 2006, and its Centennial Years during 2006-2013.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the  
16 members of this body join in congratulating Valdosta State University on its 100th anniversary  
17 and in recognizing August 18, 2006, as Valdosta State University Day in Georgia and the period  
18 2006-2013 as the Valdosta State University Centennial Years Celebration.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and  
20 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Valdosta State University.